



Department of Defense

Casualty Notification

John Molino

*Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
Military Community and Family Policy*



Casualty Notification

- **DoD Policy for Deceased and Missing:**
 - **Families notified in a timely, dignified, professional, empathetic manner**
 - **Military Service assigns casualty officer**
 - **Report accurate accounting of death or missing status as currently known**
 - **Dignity and privacy of families protected**
 - **No information released until appropriate family members notified.**



Who Is Notified?

- **Individuals identified on record of emergency data**
 - **Primary Next of Kin – spouse or parents, if single**
 - **Secondary Next of Kin – normally, parents if service member is married**
- **Casualty as a result of hostile or terrorist action, the secondary Next of Kin informed in person by Military Service representative**



Who Notifies?

- **Military Service Headquarters identifies casualty officer in geographic proximity to primary and secondary Next of Kin**
- **Casualty officer informs family**
- **Other military representatives such as, commanding officer, unit member or chaplain accompany the casualty officer**



Reasons for Notification Delay

- **Incorrect information on record of emergency data**
- **Unavailability of Next of Kin (e.g., vacation, business trip)**
- **Next of Kin live overseas**
- **Divorced parents**



Guiding Principles

- **Support for families first priority**
- **Timely notification**
- **Accurate information**
- **Protection of family privacy**
- **Responsiveness to family needs and requests**



Media Assistance

- **Recognize Military Service responsibility to notify families of deceased/missing**
- **Judicious in releasing information on deceased/missing**
- **Respect privacy of families**

